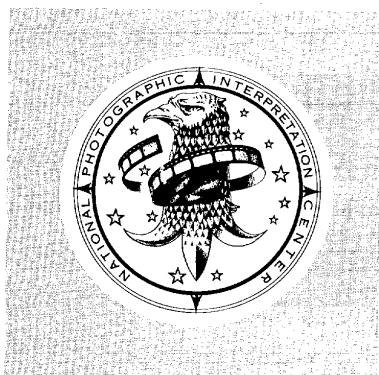


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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**CHINESE CONSTRUCTION CAMPS
AND SUPPORT FACILITIES
NORTHERN LAOS**

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**NPIC/R-19/70
APRIL 1970**

WARNING

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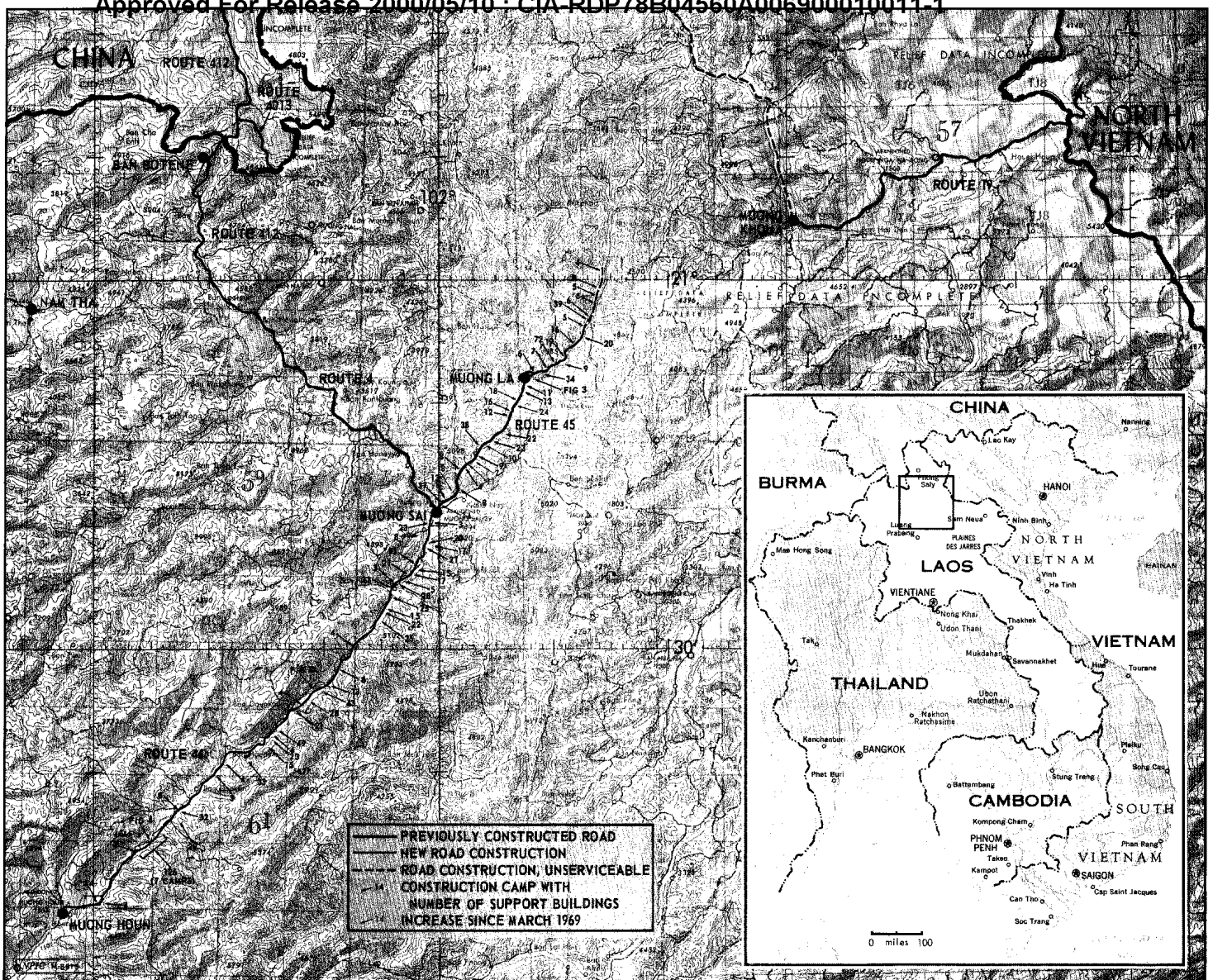


FIGURE 1. ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT FACILITIES, ROUTES 4, 45, AND 46, NORTHERN LAOS

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ABSTRACT

Chinese road construction is continuing in northern Laos along Routes 4, 45, and 46. More than 1,350 buildings in 81 construction camps, numerous air defense sites, and heavy construction equipment are observed during [REDACTED]. This report includes a basic description of the construction support facilities, a map depicting the location and composition of each facility, and selected photographs.

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INTRODUCTION

More than 80 construction camps supporting the current Chinese road construction effort in Northern Laos have been identified. This construction, a further extension of the Ban Botene-Muong Sai-Muong La road network which was completed last year, extends for 73 nautical miles (nm) with construction continuing at each end. The large number of support facilities, the use of mechanized construction equipment, and the defense of the road with antiaircraft artillery (AAA) and automatic weapons (AW) positions are similar to the construction effort previously observed along Routes 4 and 412 between Ban Botene and Muong Sai.¹

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Eighty-one construction camps containing more than 1,350 buildings are currently supporting the massive Chinese road construction effort in northern Laos (Figure 1). These camps (Figure 2) vary greatly in size and are dispersed along those portions of Route 4, 45 and 46 which comprise the 73-nm northeast-southwest road now under construction. This road is a further extension of the Ban Botene-Muong Sai-Muong La road completed last year and will connect Route 19 with the Mekong River if continued in both directions.

The northernmost segment of road construction extends approximately 13 nm north-northeast from Muong La. The 15 active construction camps along this segment contain 256 buildings. AAA and AW positions are concentrated in the vicinity of Muong La where a major bridge is under construction over the Nam Phak (Figure 3).

Although the road between Muong Sai and Muong La was complete in [REDACTED] the number of buildings at the facilities along this segment has increased from approximately 50 to over 300 since [REDACTED]². These facilities do not appear to be permanent and are probably support for the construction to the northeast and southwest.

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The 48-nm road segment between Muong Sai and Muong Houn is in early-to mid-stage of construction. The 46 active construction camps along this segment contain 826 buildings. Construction equipment identified in this area includes bulldozers, road graders, and truck-mounted cranes (Figure 4). Limited air defense is provided for the entire segment with AAA sites concentrated near Muong Sai.

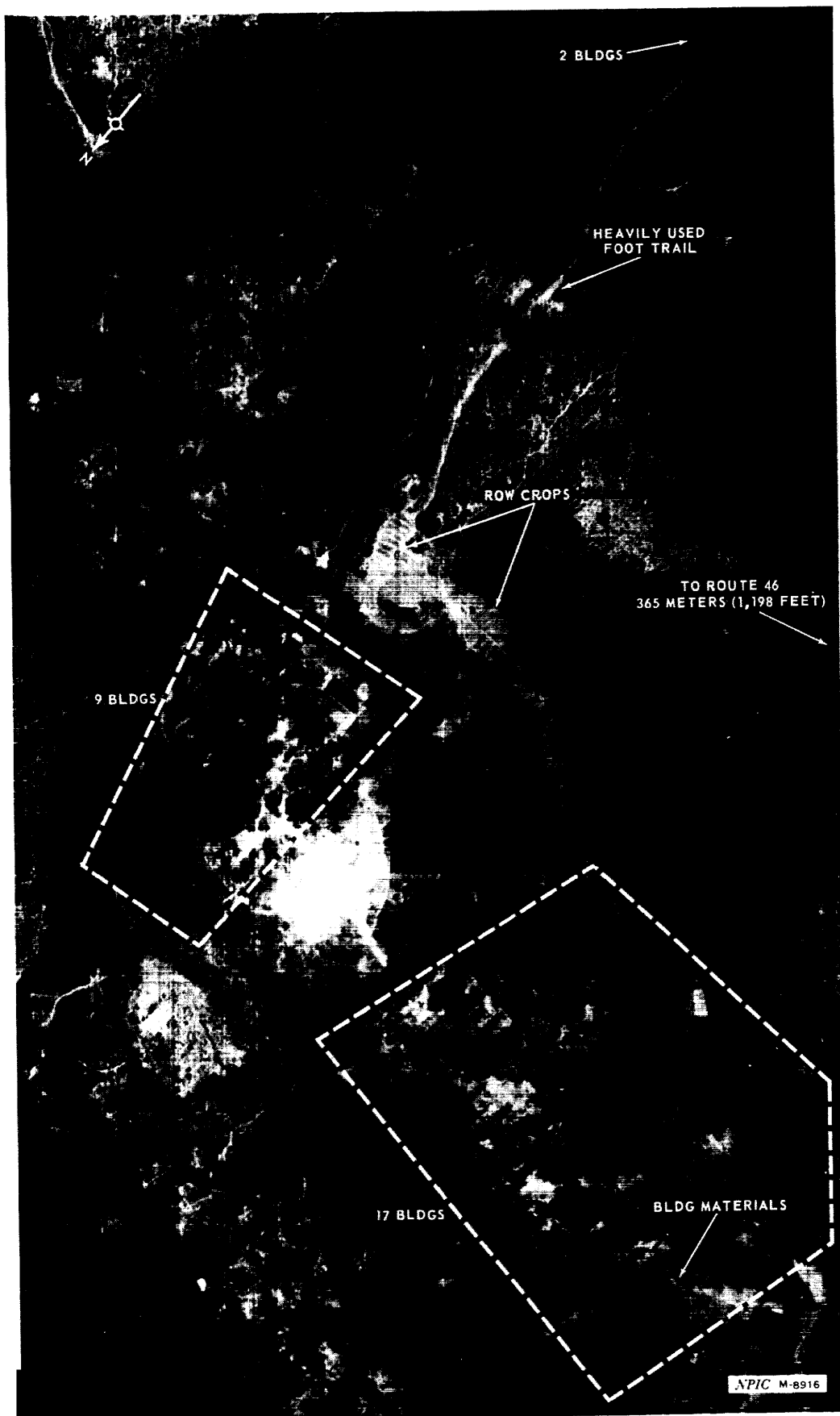


FIGURE 2. CONSTRUCTION CAMP, ROUTE 46, NORTHERN LAOS

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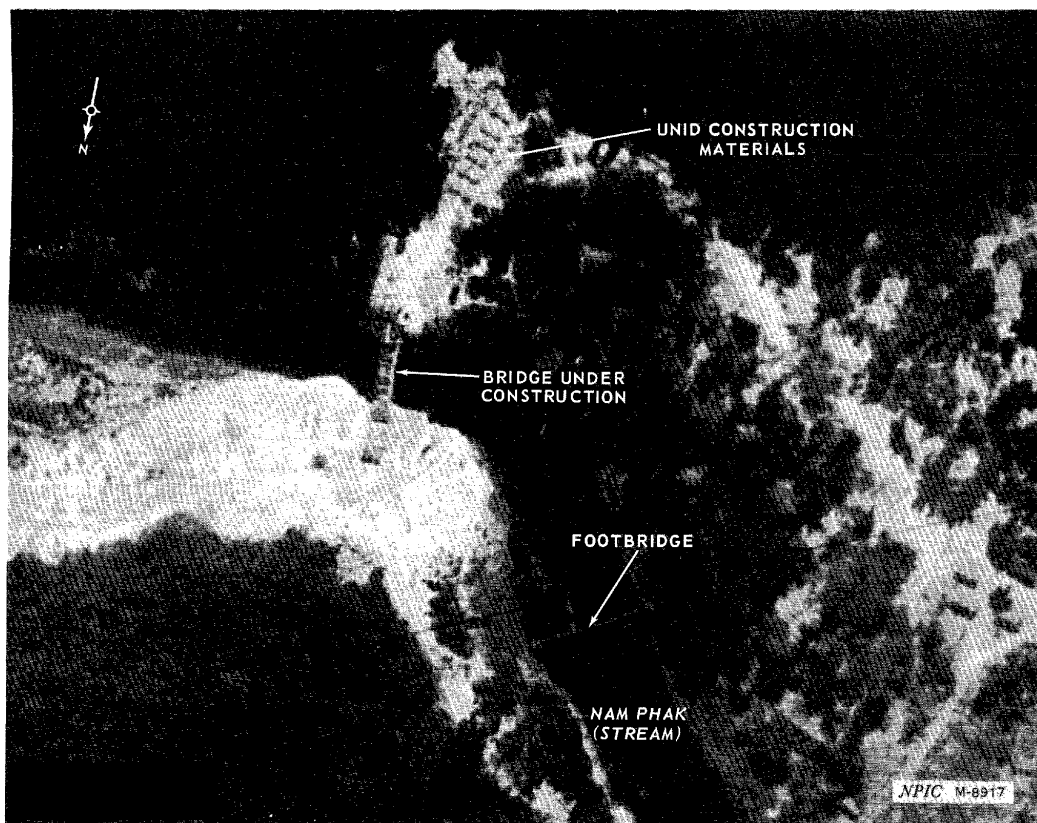


FIGURE 3. BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION OVER THE NAM PHAK NEAR MUONG LA, NORTHERN LAOS

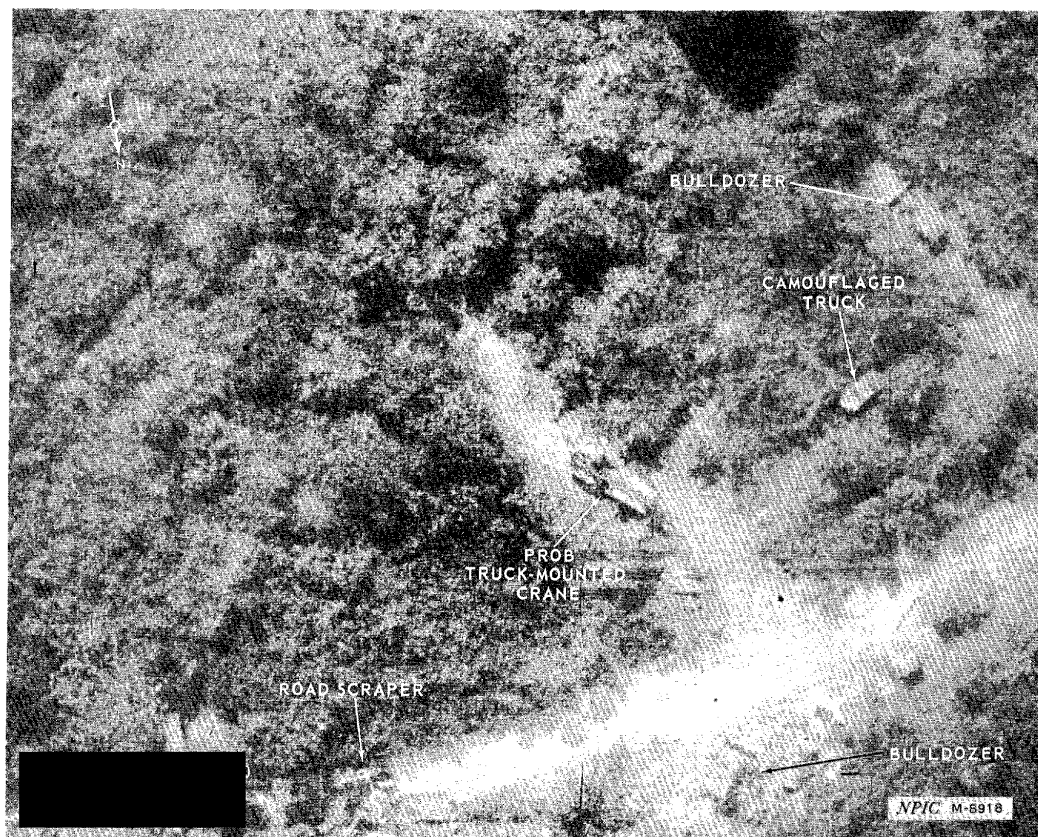
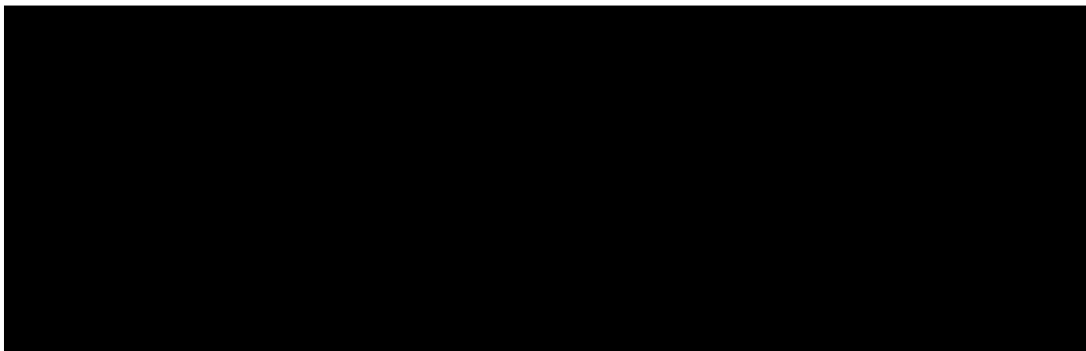


FIGURE 4. MECHANIZED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ALONG ROUTE 46, NORTHERN LAOS

REFERENCES

25X1D



MAPS AND CHARTS

AMS MAP. Series 1501, Sheets NF 47-12 & 16; NF 48-9 & 13, scale 1:250,000

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-99/69, Increased Chinese Support Facilities, Routes 412 and 4, Northern Laos, Nov 69 (CONFIDENTIAL/No Foreign Dissem [REDACTED])
2. NPIC. R-32/69, Chinese Road Construction Camps in Northern Laos, Apr 69 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem)

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